

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00519 250803Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 EB-08 COME-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 STR-07 INT-05 OES-07 AGRE-00 XMB-02

DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMECONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, PINR, MZ

SUBJECT: CABINET GOVERNORS RESHUFFLED

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY LARGEST GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE SINCE INDEPENDENCE WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL 23. TWO MEW MINISTRIES WERE CREATED FOUR MINISTER WERE GIVEN NEW PORTFOLIOS AND NEW GOVERNORS WERE NAMED IN SIX OF MOZAMBIQUE'S TEN PROVINCES. DESIGNATION OF SERGIO VIEIRA AS GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK, INCREASED POWERS FOR MARCELINO DOS SANTOS AND CREATION OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TRADE MINISTRIES ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S DEPRESSED ECONOMY. FORMER LABOR MINISTER MATSINHA BECOMES NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00519 250803Z

2. MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL ANNOUNCED APRIL 23 CHANGES IN SIXTEEN MAJOR GPRM JOBS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TAKING THE ACTION TO BETTER ORGANIZE THE ECONOMY AND TO REINFORCE THE DEFENSE OF PUBLIC ORDER. A NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION WILL BE CREATED AND HEADED BY MINISTR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARCELINO DOS SANTOS.

3. TWO NEW MINISTRIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE WILL BE LED RESPECTIVELY BY SALAMAO MUNGUAMBE FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MANEUL DOS SANTOS, UD EDUCATED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. RUI BALTHAZAR SANTOS ALVES, NOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE, WILL TAKE OVER THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO, LABOR MINISTER MARIANO MATSINHAD BE COMES THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER AND IS REPLACED AT LABOR BY ALBERTO CASSIMO, GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BAML TEDIDATO HUNGUANA, A NATIONAL DIRECTOR IN THE LABOR MINISTRY WAS DESIGNATED MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

4. SERGIO VIEIRA, WHO HAS FILLED A NUMBER OF SENSITIVE JOBS AND IS CLOSE ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT MACHEL WAS APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE. PRAKASH RATILAL REPLACES CARLOS RODRIGES AS VICE GOVERNOR. VALERIANO FERRAO AN OFFICIAL IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WAS NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL (NUMBER TWO) IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHILE SMART CATAWALA WAS APPOINTED TO A NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES.

5. SIX NEW GOVERNORS WERE NAMED. ACTING INTERIOR MINISTER DANIEL MBANZA WILL SERVE AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR IN NAMPULA OSWALDO TAZAMA NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER WILL GOVERN ZAMBEZIA PROVINCE. FERNANDO MATAVELE CURRENT GOVERNOR OF GAZA MOVES TO BEIRA AS GOVERNOR OF SOGALA, AND IS REPLACED IN XAI-XAI BY JOAO PHELEMEBE (OR PELEMBE)
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PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00519 250803Z

CURRENT GOVERNOR OF INHAMBANE. FELICIANO GUNDANA, WHOSE PREVIOUS POSITION IS UNKNOWN REPLACES PHELEMBE. FELIX AMANE ONE OF THE CHIEFS OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. WAS NAMED GOVERNOR OF TETE PROVINCE. NO INFORMATION WAS REVEALED ON THE FUTURE OF INFLUENTIAL GOVERNORS TOME EDUARDO (SOFALA) BONFIACIO GRUVETA (ZAMVEZIA) JOAO AMERICO MPFUNO (NAMPULA) AND ANTONION THAI (TETE) END UNCLASSIFIED.

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6. COMMENT THE RESHUFFLE CAM AS A SURPRISE TO MOST THOSE INSIDE AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT. WITH INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THE GOVERNMENT TIGHTLY HELD IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE WE BEGIN TO LEARN WHAT MAY BE BEHIND THE RESHUFFLE. EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
- THE REORGANIZATION CONTINUES THE PATTERN OF CONTROL BY A RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP OF HARD WORKING FRELIMO OFFICIALS. THE MOVE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN THE POWER OR INFLUENCE OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED, BUT A DESIRE ON THE PART OF MACHEL TO BETTER DEPLOY HIS KEY OFFICIALS TO MEET PRIORITY NEEDS.
- THE REASON CITED BY MACHEL FOR THE CHANGE I.E. TO

GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY MAY INDEED
BY THE MAIN REASON. DESPITE GOVERNMENT RHETORIC, CONFERENCES
AND EXHORTATION, THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO FLOUNDER. THE
NEW FACES BROUGHT IN TO WORK ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.
RUI BALHAZAR. SERGIO VIEIRA AND MANUEL DOS SANTOS
HAVE LOCAL REPUTATION OF BEING ABLE ADMINISTRATORS
MUNGUAMBE, WHO ALSO HIGHLY REGARDED LEAVES HIS KEY FINANCE
MINISTRY BUT TAKES OVER FOREIGN COMMERCE. NOW THAT SOUTH
AFRICAN GOLD PAYMENTS FOR MOZAMBICAN MINERS HAVE BEEN
REDUCED, MOZAMBIQUE WILL HAVE TO LOOK MORE TO AGRICULTURAL
AND MINERAL EXPORTS TO GENERATE NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
- DESIGNATION OF SERGIO VIEIRA AS GOVERNOR OF BANK OF
MOZAMBIQUE INDICATES THAT HE STILL IN THE ASCENDANCY. DESPITE THIS
NEW ASSIGNMENT VIEIRA IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE
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PAGE 04 MAPUTO 00519 250803Z

MACHEL AS SPECIAL ADVISOR AND TROUBLESHOOTER. VIEIRA
TOLD AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY
ON ZIMBABWEAN AND NAMIBIAN MATTERS FOR THE PRESIDENT.
- TWO CAPABLE ECONOMIC MANAGERS ALBERTO CASSIMO AND MINISTER
OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY MARIO MACHUNGO HAVE BEEN
GIVEN LESS DEMANDING OR DIMINISHED RESPONSIBILITY ALTHOUGH
WE DO NOT NECESSARILY READ ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE
INTO THIS. MACHUNGO IS LEFT WITH EXTENSIVE
RESPONSIBILITIES IN FIELDS OF ENERGY, INDUSTRY MINING AND FISHING
WHICH ENOUGH TO KEEP ONE PERSON BUSY. AND CASSIMO
IS NOW BOOTH IN TO THE CABINET.
- MATSINHA TAKES OVER AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, A POSITION
WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT FOR THE PAST YEAR. FORMER MINISTER
OF INTERIOR GUEBUZA WAS NOT GIVEN A NEW PORTFOLIO,
BUT EMBASSY'S INFORMATION SUGGEST THAT HE STILL COMMANDS
CONFIDENCE OF MACHEL. HE NOW IS SPENDING MUCH OF HIS TIME
IN NORTH, KEEPING WATCH ON DISSIDENCE WHICH CONTINUES BE
REPORTED THERE.
- THE RESHUFFLE OF GOVERNORSHIPS LEAVES EDUARDO,
GRUVETA, MPFUMO AND THAI, ALL FRELIMO MILITARY COMMANDERS
AND AMONG THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE TEN PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS
WITH JOBS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY WERE PURGED, SINCE WE
UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF GOVERNORS ARE TO BE SENT FOR
TRAINING AFTER WHICH THEY WILL RETURN TO EVEN MORE IMPORTANT
JOBS, IT ALSO REMOVED THAT SOME MAY RETURN TO COMMAND
POSITIONS IN THE ARMY.
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